

Remarks

The Office action defines three species of method as being distinct (slightly paraphrased below):

1. Providing isolation, including using ALD to adhere intrinsic silicon to an oxidation stop layer;
2. Providing undoped semiconductor on an oxidation stop layer and above a doped semiconductor layer; and
3. Adhering undoped semiconductor on an oxidation stop layer and thermally oxidizing until the oxidation front reaches the nitrogen layer.

In response, Applicant provisionally elects Species I (suggested Claims 1-2, 4-15, 27-29) with traverse.

The traverse has two parts: First as to the list of suggested claims for species I and second as to the separation of species III from I. The action correctly notes that Claim 1 has the following dependent claims: 2, 4-15, and 27-26. However with regard to use of ALD for controlling thickness of the intrinsic layer, the following additional claims come into play: 31-34. Thus there is significant overlap between Species I and III. True that Claim 30 does not recite use of ALD for its step (b) of adhering an essentially undoped silicon layer to the top portion of the first conductively-doped semiconductor layer, (where the top portion has nitrogen introduced therethrough via step (a)). But that makes Claim 30 roughly generic relative to Claim 1 which does recite use of ALD in its step (b). Thus Applicant is arguing here that species I and III should be merged, or at least that claims 31-34 qualify under the definition of species I. The claims readable on species I therefore includes: 1-2, 4-15, 27-26 and 31-34.

Request for Change of Restriction

In view of the above it is requested that at least the restriction lines drawn between Groups I and III be rescinded. It is requested that at least claims 31-34 be considered part of species I together with Claim and its dependencies. A telephone call to the below attorney is requested if it will help expedite processing of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2257 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time and/or fee for additional claims, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on Monday, Oct. 23, 2006

 10/19/06

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